

THE GAIMUSHO
TOKYO

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The Japanese Government hold the view that persons who can be made prisoners of war are not limited to military men engaged in actual fighting, but that the head of an enemy State, as well as male members of its royal family and both civil and military officers occupying an important position of the State may also for military necessity be detained and treated as prisoners of war. The Governor-General of the former Netherlands East Indies, is in the highest position in the said territory; besides he was appointed to be the commander-in-chief of the fighting forces of the territory by a royal decree in March, 1942. Whether or not he was so appointed by virtue of the provisions of the Netherlands Constitution or otherwise, and he was made a prisoner of war in view of his position, his function the import part which he, as the Governor-General of the Netherlands East Indies, played in the Netherlands' prosecution of war against Japan.

It is an act of grace to accord the treatment of a prisoner of war to a subject or a citizen of an enemy country. The Japanese Government now note that the Netherlands authorities in London have expressed their intention that they do not require for Mr. Starckenborgh the treatment as a prisoner of war. The Japanese Government, therefore, consider themselves to be at liberty to cease at any time to treat him as a prisoner of war, but deal with him as an ordinary internee together with other nationals of enemy countries whose liberation is deemed to be detrimental to this country.

8th September, 1942.

Svenska
Beskickningen i Tokio

The undersigned, Ripa, Olof, Swedish Diplomatic Representative in Japan, declares and certifies that the annexed document is a complete and true (photo)copy of a letter in Jap. language with translation in English, dated Tokyo 8 Sept. 1942, received by the Swedish Minister in Japan, sent by the Jap. Foreign Ministry, which original document is part of the official records of the Swedish Mission in Tokyo,

Tokyo, October 31st, 1946

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L.S.

/s/ Ripa

(Signature: O. Ripa)